
From: Rochelle Lavery
Sent: Thursday, 17 October 2013 5:55 PM
To: 'hughgent@bigpond.net.au'; 'administrator@ankc.org.au'
Subject: Registration by Dogs Victoria of Dogs with Unknown Parentage and Uncertain Breed Heritage

17 October 2013

Australian National Kennel Club Ltd
Attention: Mr Hugh Gent OAM – President

By email: Hugh Gent OAM hughgent@bigpond.net.au
Administrator administrator@ankc.org.au

Dear Mr Gent

Registration by Dogs Victoria of Dogs with Unknown Parentage and Uncertain Breed Heritage

I write to you today in extreme concern and consternation at this continuing saga of the ANKC and Dogs Victoria deciding to retain the registrations of the offspring and descendants of an unregistered dog of unknown parentage and dubious breed heritage. These dogs that are not eligible for registration are breeding new generations despite the risks it poses for the Irish Wolfhound breed. As an owner of now four pure bred Irish Wolfhounds with pedigrees that I can track back over 200 years without any unknown parentage, that are on Limited Registration and that I can neither show nor breed from, I am shocked that dogs without defined and known parentage and pedigree are being considered acceptable as both breeding stock and show quality animals ahead of my own.

I am committed to the security and quality control measures available to pet owners like myself who choose to have pedigree dogs where the most information possible is available on the medical history and temperament of dogs particularly when we are talking about a giant breed which in itself has inherent medical issues and where temperament of an 80kg dog can have serious consequences.

For the past four years I have been organising the wolfhounds in Western Australia as the Gathering of the Wolfhounds WA, a precursor to a future formal Irish Wolfhound Club of WA. The purpose for the Gathering is primarily education and the sharing of important health and care information with other owners and breeders to ensure the health and longevity of our dogs through the promotion of pure bred Irish Wolfhounds. Our secondary purpose is to assist those in coming to terms with, and rehoming in some cases, those crossbred dogs often with significant behavioural issues resulting from unscrupulous breeders of "Irish Wolfhounds without papers", obviously not at all similar to the temperament or conformation of a purebred Irish Wolfhound. I am concerned that this does not appear to be your mandate despite your Constitution stating in Clause 3(b) that your objective is *"To encourage and promote in every way the general improvement of the recreation, sport, standard, breeding, Exhibition and training of breeds of Dogs on the Pure Bred Register."* Surely that would be for pure bred dogs with complete pedigrees as your definition of pure bred register *"Pure Bred Register" means the canine register kept for the purpose of recording Dogs of a breed recognised by the ANKC as eligible for Exhibition and/or breeding purposes."* It does not say *"for the purpose of recording Dogs of mixed breeds"* (Irish Roohounds/ Aussie Wolfdogs perhaps?) or that they should be recognised by the ANKC.

If I wanted a designer mongrel I can assure you I could purchase one at significantly less cost due to the

risks I take in not knowing the parentage or pedigree and thus the temperament and medical history of the dog. If I was unfortunate enough to have one of the dogs with a blank in the pedigree, I would consider I had been fraudulently sold a pedigree dog and surely you must also feel that way if you were at the receiving end. It is no different to purchasing a diamond and finding that it is only a cubic zirconia – looks about the same but does not have the inherent qualities and value expected at the time of purchase.

No matter how you might seek to attempt to justify this, **Dogs Victoria should not be permitted to register litters as pure breed that are by unregistered dogs with unknown parentage and uncertain breed heritage.** There is no doubt that the affected dogs do not even qualify for Limited registration, let alone the Main Register and the DNA testing confirms this. Do you want to make yourself and us the laughing stock of the rest of the pedigree dog world? Do you want to ensure that the opportunity to import dogs to continue to improve breeds by adding to our limited gene pool is severed resulting in the deterioration of the standard of pure bred dogs in Australia?

The risks of the unknown lineage to the future of the Irish Wolfhound breed are unacceptable. No other breed would accept the possible introduction of new genetic disorders - why should the Irish Wolfhound breed be expected to do that? Why should owners be subject to this, many without knowing the risks of problems they will take on?

I implore you to act in the interest of all pure bred dog breeders and owners in Australia and stop this now. This creates an undesirable precedent for the whole pure bred dog community and these dogs must not be permitted to remain on the Register! Please live up to your responsibilities and constitution and **Keep the Irish Wolfhound breed a pure breed.**

I request that you please confirm in writing that you have received and read this letter.

Yours sincerely

Rochelle Lavery

EAST VICTORIA PARK WA 6101

Organiser – Gathering of the Wolfhounds WA.

Owner of four Pure Bred Irish Wolfhounds on Limited Register.